THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Loans for acquisition, replacement and modernisations of ships

2447. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian National Shipowners Association (INSA) has urged Government for the continuation of soft loan financing for acquisition, replacement and modernisation of ships; and

(b) if so, what are the details and what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) The Shipping Development Fund Committee provides funds for acquisition, replacement and modernisation of ships at low interest rates and with longer periods of amortisation. The Indian National Shipowners' Association have urged the Government for the continuation of these soft loan financing arrangements for shipping development in the Seventh Plan also.

Water scarcity at Tinsukhia station

2448. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute scarcity of drinking water supply at Tinsukhia station and its railway colony; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to provide alternative source of water supply there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A work of providing a Water Treatment Plant for improving the quality of water and an open well of 9 metre dia and 12 metre deep to augment water supply with suitable additional storage are already sanctioned and the work is in progress.

Talk with the Gulf Airlines Authorities and Government of Dubai

2449. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation headed by the Secretary in the Department of Civil Aviation had talks with the Gulf Airlines authorities and Government of Dubai;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Gulf Airlines and newly formed airlines of Government of Dubai is likely to have more flights to India now than there prior to the formation of airlines by the Dubai Government; and

(c) whether Air India propose to operate any additional flight to Gulf countries after the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation headed by Secretary, Department of Civil Aviation, visited Bahrain and Dubai for bilateral air talks from 12 to 15 October, 1985 with the Government of Gulf States.

(b) Yes, Sir. Combined frequency and capacity entitlements of Gulf Air (designated carrier of U.A.E. except Dubai, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain) and 'Emirates' (designated carrier of the Emirate of Dubai) are marginally higher than the entitlements which were available to Gulf Air along in terms of the old arrangements determined some years back.

(c) No, Sir.